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Changes to Alcohol Regulations Remove “Intent to Dine” and Other Provisions

November 24, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) – Wellesley restaurant patrons can now enjoy alcoholic beverages in local establishments without ordering food after the Wellesley Select Board made changes to the current Town of Wellesley alcohol regulations, removing the Intent to Dine provision among other things. These changes are effective immediately.

An overview of the new Rules and Regulations Governing Alcoholic Beverages is below. The full regulations are posted on the Town of Wellesley website. Specific modifications made by the Select Board include:

- Consolidating the Select Board’s policy governing on-premises establishments and its policy governing off-premises establishments into one single policy document to eliminate any conflicting requirements
- Eliminating the background information about the history of licensing in Wellesley
- Reorganizing the sections to address the various stages of the licensing and operating process
- Clarifying alcohol serving and handling training requirements
- Modifying requirements of the application process, including the removal of CORI rules for assistant managers and requiring proof of training for certain employees
- Establishing a violation policy
- Removing the Intent to Dine provision and better defined “food service”
- Removing the 10% Bar Seating Cap and clarified the scope of permitted bar service
- Expanding the time requirement for cancellation of a license for non-use
- Changing various definitions such as “Function Room”, “Bar”, “Service Bar”, and “Abutter”
- Clarified of insurance coverage

The Board also updated the fee structure for alcohol licensing. The fee changes will be effective on January 1, 2022. Both the public and local restaurant owners gave input on the proposed regulations before the unanimous Board vote.

“These changes address barriers we have recognized in helping our local business owners with changing, expanding, or occupying their businesses in Wellesley,” said Amy Frigulietti, Assistant Executive Director of Government Services. “We hope these changes will provide more dining options and flexibility for restaurant patrons, and also break down obstacles to economic growth and support the revitalization of our Town business districts.”

View [a clean copy](#) and [a redlined copy](#) of the final changes to the regulations. Local restaurant owners and the Wellesley Police Department were notified of the new Rules and Regulations Governing Alcoholic Beverages. For questions concerning these changes, please contact Amy Frigulietti by emailing afrigulietti@wellesleyma.gov.